

H. BRENT COLES  
MAYOR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

September 30, 1999

A GREETING FROM MAYOR BRENT COLES

I was a teenager in Boise during the late 1960's when the Boise River was a mess. It was polluted, dirty, and littered with old refrigerators and car bodies. At that time, it was more of a liability to the community than an asset. Enter – a group of people with a vision for the river and the willingness to work hard to make that vision come true.

Today, the Boise River Greenbelt is the envy of the nation. Every day, the Greenbelt gives thousands of individuals and families the chance to play, exercise, and get to and from work and school in full view of the spectacular beauties of the Boise River. It would have been easy for those people of vision to get discouraged, because the development of the Greenbelt and the clean-up of the river has not been easy. Yet, they persisted and on this beautiful fall day in 1999 we are celebrating their achievement.

The Greenbelt has become the catalyst to Boise's metamorphosis into a vibrant, growing city which cherishes the natural environment that surrounds us. I often walk along the Greenbelt, sometimes alone, sometimes with my friends or family and I am always grateful to live in this community which values those things that are most important. One of those values is our natural environment. Another is giving of ourselves to community service. The Greenbelt is the perfect reflection of what happens when a community acts on their values.

As I look forward to 2019, when this letter is read, I hope that my children or my grandchildren are there. I also hope that each of you understand the rich heritage left to you by Boiseans of the 20<sup>th</sup> century who had a vision for their community and acted to achieve that vision.

As you work to accomplish your visions for Boise, I invite you to celebrate those whose vision laid the path for you.

Very truly yours,

H. Brent Coles  
Mayor



BOISE PARKS & RECREATION

H. BRENT COLES  
MAYOR

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CAROLYN TERTELING  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
MIKE WETHERELL  
COUNCIL PRO TEM

SARA BAKER  
PAULA FORNEY  
ANNE STITES HAUSRATH  
M. JEROME MAPP

September 22, 1999

Mayor of Boise (Year 2019)  
City of Boise  
P.O. Box 500  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mayor:

I hope this letter finds you in the best of spirits and enjoying your term in office as the Mayor of Boise.

We at the Boise Parks & Recreation Department are proud to have played such an important role in the development of the Greenbelt. At the time of this writing, the Greenbelt is 30 years old and much has occurred. This past two (2) years has been particularly busy with the completion of the East River Footbridge, the Wylie Lane section and the Capital Street Underpass. The Department is also putting the finishing touches on the Boise River Management Plan. When you read this letter I am hopeful that many of the recommendations in this plan have been implemented, including; improvements in how recreational usage is controlled, that many of the riparian areas have been restored and the lighting of the path through the core area has been completed. What an exciting time we have had these past several years with the last of the major pieces of the Greenbelt coming together. I hope you are enjoying this city treasure.

I also hope that the nearly 1,000 acres of parks we have purchased the last seven (7) years are now developed and being used for the types of recreational programming people want most. Presently youth soccer is our fastest growing sport with over 8,000 local youth playing on Boise's fields. I can only imagine the demands you must be facing in the world now with close to 12 billion people now on the planet. (Estimate by National Geographic 1999, October Issue). I also hope that your City Council understands the importance of recreation and parks as a basic necessity in the lives of your citizens. In Boise, at the present time, citizens are demanding more and more recreational and park opportunities to offset the pressures of our daily lives. We are considering buying property in the Foothills through a special levy so that the this property can be retained for it's special open space, recreational, plant, vista and wildlife values. By the time you read this letter Boise will have protected the Foothills or they will have been developed and now look much like the Beverly Hills. I can only hope the citizens of Boise made the right choice. The Foothills will become the next Greenbelt in the way of recreational and park significance if it is protected.

May your Parks & Recreation Department still be the best department in the City of Boise.

Sincerely,

James R. Hall, Director  
Boise Parks & Recreation

JRH/mcl



MISSION STATEMENT

Boise Park & Recreation's mission is to enhance Boise's quality of life by working in partnership with the community to foster and support citizen well being and healthy community environments.



DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
GOVERNOR

September 30, 1999

A writer once described Boise as one of the few cities in America where you could find a Fortune 500 company within a 9-iron shot of a Shakespearean festival and a world class trout fishery. The crowning jewel in that description is, of course, the Boise River and the Boise River Greenbelt.

The Greenbelt allows residents of Boise and visitors alike to enjoy a true nature experience in the heart of one of the most progressive cities in the Pacific Northwest.

During my time as Mayor of Boise, completing the acquisition and preservation of the property along the river was a top priority. As a city, we understood the importance of the quality of life in Boise and the need to ensure that same quality of life for future generations. As a result of the steps we took, the children of today will someday enjoy watching their children play along the Boise River.

As I meet people from all over the world who have had the opportunity to visit Boise, the first thing they mention is the Boise River Greenbelt. It has become the signature piece for our city, and gives people an opportunity to come downtown and enjoy all that Boise has to offer.

In true Idaho fashion, we have shown that we can indeed find that proper balance between protecting our environment, and allowing for the prosperity of our citizens. As you open this time capsule to celebrate 50 years of the Boise River Greenbelt, may the vision that led to the creation of this hallmark for Idaho's capital city continue to be alive as you leave your legacy for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Dirk Kempthorne in black ink, written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
Governor

DK:bw